

CFAC Broadband Subcommittee Lead: Tom Kealey

Please submit public comments by 5:00 p.m. MT, Wednesday, June 3rd, 2020, to:

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“Draft” Recommendation for CFAC by Broadband Subcommittee

Idaho Broadband Projects for CARES Act Funds. Broadband is critical for physical distancing for our Idaho communities and a critical service for our state’s economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced widespread closures of schools, businesses, facilities across the Gem State, threatening livelihoods, education, healthcare, causing unprecedented job losses, and imperiling the future of local organizations and establishments across our state. Broadband service substantially helps to mitigate the pandemic challenges while supporting physically distancing and remote learning, working, healthcare, public safety, etc. CARES Act Funds are available for costs to mitigate coronavirus challenges broadband infrastructure to cover costs in order to protect our health, online education, remote working, and for a speedy economic recovery for Idahoans. Many Idaho communities did not and still do not have access to high speed digital communication for remote learning and working, telehealth, applications for employment, unemployment filings, farming and ranching efficiencies and safe practices, enhanced health correctional operations, and access to rural public safety and important community services.

Recommendation of Broadband Subcommittee to CFAC: Allocate up to \$100 million (8% of total CRF Award) for Broadband projects across Idaho that are eligible under the CARES Act but initially, up to \$50 million of the funds would be for all State governmental departments and agencies, local subdivisions and for private sector projects that meet the following criteria.

The projects would be solicited from the all State governmental departments and agencies, local subdivisions (cities, municipalities, counties, and 501-3c nonprofits that have an justifiable interest in broadband development) and private sector projects.

- State governmental departments and agencies, local subdivisions (cities, municipalities, counties, and 501-3c nonprofits that have an justifiable interest in broadband development) are eligible up to 100% funding from their State of Idaho CARES Act funding allocation
- Private sector projects are eligible for 50% funding with a private/public 50% match. Guidelines for granting funds will be determined based on DAG direction. State governmental departments and agencies, local subdivisions (cities, municipalities, and counties) would provide 50% funding and a private sector company would provide 50% funding.
- And all projects must be completed on or before Dec. 30, 2020, meet U.S. Treasury guidance that allows the state to use Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) dollars for expenditures for Broadband costs with guidance from DFM and DAG, and funds paid for the projects.
- There is no maximum amount set for any individual Broadband project.
- Payment of funds will be the Office of the Idaho State Controller.
- All Broadband projects and costs will be reported on [Transparent.Idaho.Gov](https://transparent.idaho.gov)

In addition, if project requests exceed the \$100 million, the criteria for selecting Broadband projects will be prioritized initially for rural and small communities with less than 5,000, projects that serve online

education, correctional facilities, telehealth, remote working, and middle mile and last mile installation in highway right of ways that would serve rural and small communities.

The State of Idaho and/or a State Department or agency that oversees the selection of projects, will need spending authority up to \$100 million; and need authorization to enter into MOU's with State entities, Grants with local government agencies subdivisions, and/or approved contracts with private sector companies. There may be 40 or more projects covering many parts of the Idaho. Good procurement procedures be followed at State and local governmental levels for awarding, compliance and completion reports for payment releases from the State of Idaho Controller. The governmental entities' costs for administering these Broadband projects by will be 2% of the project costs, but the division of these costs (to be determined).

HOW TO APPLY. The Idaho Commerce Department will handle the initial requests for Broadband projects and funding applications. Click on the funding opportunity in the Idaho Grants Portal. <http://idahocommerce.force.com/grants>

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY? Any eligible internet service provider, cities, counties, utilities, public/private partnerships, State agencies and departments, etc. with an Employer Identification Number (EIN) and have filed employment forms with Idaho State Tax Commission before January 1, 2020 and is in good standing with State, local and Federal governmental agencies.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET A RESPONSE AFTER MY APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED? It is anticipated that an initial response will be approximately one week after the application is submitted.

HOW WILL THE PROJECT BE REVIEWED, AWARDED AND AUDITED (To be completed with Guidance from DAG, Idaho Dept. of Purchasing and DFM for Emergency Order Deviation Options for efficiency, and speed.)